

## Army Announces Environmental Awards

The vast expanse of central Texas yields 340 square miles for an armored training installation on which the Army can hone its warfighting skills. Fifty-two battalions call Fort Hood home. Most soldiers who have been there, when they think of Fort Hood, also think of such proud units as III Corps, the 1st Cavalry Division and 4th Infantry Div.

Within this atmosphere of intense military operations, with more than 130,000 acres in use for combat training, **John D. Cornelius** developed a natural resources program that has gained him recognition throughout the wildlife-conservation community. He created a sanctuary for some of Fort Hood's smallest creatures, and in doing so preserved the land the Army defends.

Because of his environmental program, Cornelius will receive the fiscal year 2001 Secretary of the Army Environmental Award for individual natural resources conservation during an April 30 Pentagon ceremony. A panel of civilian and Army natural-resource experts, including representatives from

The Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Services, judged this year's competitors for the award.

"John Cornelius is at the forefront of endangered-species program management, and has been the driving force behind Fort Hood's innovative endangered species program," said Jeanette Gallihugh, USFWS biologist and judge on this year's awards panel.

"He has developed partnerships and cooperative efforts to create an effective program at the fort that enhances training capabilities," Gallihugh said. Fort Hood's terrain is characterized by valleys, buttes and mesas that support a variety of birds in oak-juniper, mixed and grassland habitats. Three of these resident birds are on the endangered-species list — the golden-cheeked warbler, the black-capped vireo and the bald eagle.

Through projects such as habitat modeling and regeneration of habitat by fire, Cornelius'

successful recovery program has made Fort Hood the largest single landowner and manager for the warbler and vireo species.

As a result of monitoring breeding density, productivity, nest parasitism and population, Fort Hood has been able to lift most restrictions on its western training areas.

"John Cornelius has developed a program for the recovery of the black-capped vireo and the golden-cheeked warbler that allows for the conservation of our resources and the continuation of the Army's mission," said Jim Bailey, a judging panel member and biologist at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

"The Secretary of the Army Environmental Award is a significant win for the environmental stakeholders because it demonstrates the bridge between the environmental and military communities," Bailey said. "But the public should care about this award because Cornelius' leadership in endangered-species management sets the standard for the entire field," he said.

Each year, Army environmental professionals from around the world compete for Department of the Army recognition in natural resources conservation, cultural resources management, environmental quality, pollution prevention and environmental restoration.

This year the Army will present nine awards — five installation, two individual and 2 team — during the April Pentagon ceremony.

The best in the Army advance to compete with winners from the Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Defense Logistics Agency for the Secretary of Defense Environmental Security Award, to be presented at the Pentagon May 1.

### The FY 2001 Secretary of the Army Environmental Award Winners

#### ■ Natural-Resources Conservation

Winning installation of less than 10,000 acres: Fort Eustis, Va.

Winning individual: John Cornelius, Fort Hood, Texas

#### ■ Cultural Resources Management

Winning installation: Fort Benning, Ga.

#### ■ Environmental Quality

Winning nonindustrial installation: Fort Irwin, Calif.

Winning team: Fort Lee, Va.

#### ■ Pollution Prevention

Winning industrial installation: Lake City Army Ammunition Plant, Mo.

Winning Weapons System Acquisition Team: Bradley Environmental Management Team.

#### ■ Environmental Restoration

Winning installation: Fort Stewart, Ga.

Winning individual: George Gricius, U.S. Army Reserve Command

## And the winners are...



Dave Beckmann



### Environmental Photo Winners

ENVIRONMENTAL Front proudly recognizes the photographers who provided images illustrating the Army's efforts to improve and protect the environments in which we work and train. Contributions this year included images of natural and cultural resource stewardship and community outreach at Fort McCoy, Wis., and in Fort Worth, Texas.

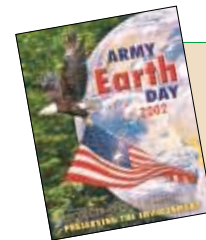
The following contributors will receive letters of congratulation from the commander of the U.S. Army Environmental Center, and their photographs



Judy Marsicano



Jason Tish



### Order Extra Earth Day Posters

THIS issue of Soldiers should include the 2002 Army Earth Day poster. If the poster is missing or you want extra copies, contact the U.S. Army Environmental Center at <http://aec.army.mil> or by e-mail at [deborah.elliott@aec.apgea.army.mil](mailto:deborah.elliott@aec.apgea.army.mil).



The Army is helping to preserve the quality of life on Earth by doing its part to protect natural resources.

Please send your contributions or questions to Cynthia Houston, National Outreach Team Leader, U.S. Army Environmental Center, 5179 Hoadley Road, Attn.: SFIM-AEC-PA, Bldg. 4415, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5401, or e-mail [Environmental.Front@aec.apgea.army.mil](mailto:Environmental.Front@aec.apgea.army.mil). Houston can be reached by phone at (410) 436-1270 or (DSN) 584-1270.